



Church of the Advent

The Liturgy of the Word
Second Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2020

PRELUDE - by Bradford Dale

OPENING SENTENCES

People Blessed be the one, holy, and living One.
You come to your people and set them free.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Celebrant and people

I Will Kindle My Fire

ADVENT CHOIR

*I will kindle my fire in the morn of the day,
in the presence of holy angels.
Without malice or jealousy, envy or fear,
without terror of anyone under the sun,
but the Holy Beloved to shield me.
O Holy one, kindle thou here in my heart,
a flame of pure love to my neighbor,
to my foe, to my friend, to my kindred all,
to the brave, to the knave, to the thrall.
O child of the loveliest Mary, from the lowliest thing,
to the Holy Name, the beloved of all.*

THE COLLECT

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT - Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People

Thanks be to God

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

THE EPISTLE - 2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God**

MUSIC

Behold Your God

ADVENT CHOIR

*Oh thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
Oh thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem:
Lift up your voice with strength, Lift it up don't be afraid. Behold your God!
Arise, and shine, for the light of the world is come.
Behold your God!*

THE GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and

untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

People The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

THE SERMON - *The Rev. Jason Oden*

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant and people

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ.

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

The congregation is invited to stand

Officiant *Gracious God, through your messengers the prophets you have called your people to prepare the way of the Lord and to welcome the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God: Speak tenderly to your people that we may wait for and hasten the coming day, saying: Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*

Intercessor *Indwelling God, you have baptized your Church with the Holy Spirit: Inspire us to lead lives of holiness and godliness as we prepare for the new heavens and a new earth, so that as Christ comes he finds us to be a people of peace and justice.*

Mercy and truth have met together;

People **righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

Intercessor *Holy and Mighty One, open the ears and eyes of the leaders of all the nations that they may listen to what the Lord God is saying, for you are speaking peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.*

Mercy and truth have met together;

People **righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

Intercessor *Compassionate One, look upon the needs of all humanity: Feed your flock like a shepherd; gather the lambs in your arms and carry them in your bosom, gently leading the mother sheep, that all may know the comfort of your strength.*

Mercy and truth have met together;

People **righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

Intercessor *Ever-present God, lift up your voice with power to herald good tidings to the people of this community to cast out all fear as we listen for the happy cry of your coming salvation.*

Mercy and truth have met together;

People **righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

Intercessor *Glorious One, come with might in your divine recompense to reveal your glory to all who look to you in hope, as we pray especially for ____.
(Congregation is welcome to add their own petitions.)*

*Accept our glad tidings for those who offer you their gracious thanksgivings, especially for ____.
(Congregation is welcome to add their own thanksgivings.)*

Bring into your everlasting reign those who have died, especially ____.
(Congregation may add the names of those to remember.)

People Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Officiant *Look upon your creation and comfort your people, O Holy One: Let every valley be lifted up and every mountain and hill be made low; let the uneven ground become level and the rough places a plain, that all people may see the revelation of the glory of God, in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

Let us confess our sins to God.

Celebrant and people

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**
The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Birthdays and Anniversaries of Weddings and Unions

MUSIC

Bless Now

ADVENT CHOIR

*Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.*

*Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors, whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.*

*Divine Eternal Lover, You meet us on the road.
We wait for land of promise where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places, You meet us all around.
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and people

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his Lutheran counterpart Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton welcome congregations and individuals to regularly pray "A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God." This prayer is meant to unite us in common prayer and revive us for common mission, wherever and however we may be gathered.

A PRAYER FOR THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Celebrant and people

**God of all power and love,
we give thanks for your unfailing presence
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.**

**Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:
a people who pray, worship, learn,
break bread, share life, heal neighbors,
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.
Wherever and however we gather,
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Comfort, O comfort to you, God's people. In your wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, and in your desert, make straight a highway for our God.

Greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, for he is lifting every valley and removing every mountain, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

You are baptized with the Holy Spirit. Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other; truth springs from the earth and justice looks down from heaven. Lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, do not fear.

And the peace of our gentle God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and comfort you, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE - by *Bradford Dale*



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